

Job 14v14 – If A Man Die, Shall He Live Again – An Easter Meditation 1972 – 04-02-1972

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Ralph C. Link, Pastor 9:00 A.M.  
Christ Church, Duncannon  
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP April 2, 1972

The Organ Prelude  
\*The Hymn of Praise 167  
\*The Call to Worship and Invocation  
The Scripture----John 20:1-18  
\*The Gloria Patri  
\*The Apostles Creed Page 23  
The Anthem (Trinity)  
The Announcements  
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings  
\*The Doxology  
\*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer  
The Sacrament of Baptism  
~~The Reception of New Members~~  
The Hymn of Meditation 168  
The Meditation----"If A Man Die---"  
The Communion Hymn 341  
\*The Order of Holy Communion Page 32  
\*The Seraphic Hymn #522  
The Institution of the Lord's Supper  
The Consecration of the Elements  
The Communion (Please retain the elements  
until all are served)  
\*The Prayer of Thanksgiving  
\*The Hymn of Response 165  
\*The Benediction  
\*The Threefold Amen  
\*The Postlude

\*Congregation Stands

#### CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the chancel have been placed  
in Memory of:

Mary Mumper from Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Fisher  
and daughter,  
Elizabeth Spease from Miss Esther Spease,  
Erman Wolpert from Mrs. Violet Wolpert,  
John H. Achenbach from Mrs. Linda Achenbach,  
Homer L. Dowdrich from Mrs. Mary Louise  
Dowdrich,  
William Borcharding from Mr. & Mrs. William  
H. Borcharding,  
Florence Haas from Erla and Earl,  
Elmer Holland from Mr. & Mrs. George Achenbach,  
Therma Bolton from Mrs. Donald Liddick,  
Mr. & Mrs. LeRue Hess from Mr. & Mrs. Frank  
Forrer, Sr.,  
From Mr. Joseph Kistler.

Consistory Meeting Mon. April 3rd at 7:30 PM.

#### TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the chancel today are in memory  
of all departed members of the Mite Society.

There is also a plant placed by Mrs. Rynkiewicz  
in memory of M. Zula Swartz.

We welcome as new members this morning Mr.  
& Mrs. Banks Sheibley.

The Ladies of the Church will meet Thurs.  
evening April 6th at 7:30 PM.

#### WELCOME VISITORS

WELCOME BABIES PECK & FISHER BAPTISM

QUESTIONNAIRE FILL OUT MEMBERS ON MT. LINK  
OPINION & NEED YOUR HELP.

Call to Worship: Now is Christ risen from the dead  
and become the first fruits of them that slept.  
Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through  
our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Invocation: Assist us mercifully, O God, in our  
prayers, that as our blessed Lord, after the suffer-  
ing of death, came where the disciples were assembled  
on the first day of the week, and stood in their  
midst saying, "Peace be unto you"; so may He come  
to us who are here gathered in His name, and may He  
lift His pierced hands in benediction over us and  
breathe upon our hearts the peace that He alone can  
give. Amen

"If A Man Die, Shall He Live Again?"  
An Easter Meditation 1972

Text: Job 14:14, "If a man die, shall he live again?"

Centuries ago a pain racked farmer in the Middle East asked the intriguing question, "If a man ~~live~~ die, shall he live again?" The man of course was Job and he was speaking of the frailty of man. He was answering the questioning of his friend ~~Elihu~~ Zophar, who was trying to find the reason for his suffering. This question bothered many people down through the ages. The age old question of what happens when a man dies?

The Pharisees thought they had the answer or so they hoped. They believed in a resurrection from the dead and in a future world where men are rewarded or punished for their behaviour in this life. The Sadducees on the other hand rejected this theory and believed that when you died you were confined to Sheol, or a place of the dead.

And so the questioning and the theories went on and on. Men were looking for a solution to the problems of the world. Life was too miserable and surely there had to be something beyond it. There must be some happiness to be found somewhere and certainly God would lift them from the misery of this life to a new and better one. Each miserable day dragged by, followed by another, <sup>YET</sup> and another.

The long awaited coming of the deliverer of the chosen people had not yet ~~arrived on the scene~~. <sup>BECOME A REALITY</sup> But when he did come, <sup>Ah</sup> that would be the day of the highest joy. He would overthrow all of this oppression and tyranny they had known for so long. He would come as the mighty deliverer sent by God to redeem his people Israel.

From time to time there were pretenders to this throne, but this is only what they were, pretenders. They stepped forth into the spotlight and briefly had their day in the eyes of the world as

To top it all off he had been arrested, tried, and executed as so many of the others had been. He had died as ~~everyone~~ <sup>ANYONE</sup> else just a couple days ago and that was the end of that pretender <sup>AND GOOD RIDDANCE.</sup> ~~as well.~~



Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife  
 Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link  
 Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)











Ralph C. Link  
153 Keck Road  
Sarver, Pa. 16055  
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Married: December 15, 1951  
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill  
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

**SCHOOLING:**

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United  
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,  
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

**PASTORATES:**

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in  
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ  
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary  
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity  
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central  
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of  
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United  
Church of Christ

## PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.



# STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.